

REACH Advisory Board Meeting Notes

Friday, March 16, 2012
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Asian Pacific Community in Action

Attendees: Zeenat Mahal, Doug Hirano, Melanie Mitros, Kerrin Kleinschmidt, Najla Bryant, Elizabeth Ortiz de Valdez, Anna Alonzo, Zipatly Mendoza, Rayna Edwards, Eileen Eisen-Cohen, Mara Del Luca

Call to Order/Roll Call

Zeenat Mahal called the meeting to order at 10:015AM. A roll call was conducted and the sign in sheet distributed.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and approved. Doug motioned that the minutes be approved with Zeenat seconding the motion. All approved the motion.

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved as meeting notes with the following amendments:

- that REACH Advisory Board members be noted by their first names in the meeting notes

Doug motioned that the minutes be approved with Melanie seconding the motion. All approved the motion.

Introductions

Ms. Rayna Edwards, who was hired as a full-time epidemiologist, introduced herself to the group. She began working on January 30th and has very busy working on the Community Health Assessment portion of the grant.

Eileen Eisen-Cohen, PhD – Manager, Office of Performance Improvement for the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), and Mara Del Luca, MS, CHES – Performance Improvement Coordinator for the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, introduced themselves. Both Eileen and Mara play an integral part in the REACH MAPP process and will be providing an overview of the County's participation in the grant process.

Update on Assessments

Eileen and Mara participate on the REACH Team along with Anna Alonzo and Zipatly Mendoza.

She stated that her office is in charge of developing performance standards, developing partnerships to build a strong foundation, promote continuous quality improvement of public health systems and strengthening the science base for public health practice improvement. The County received a grant

from CDC to assist them in their path toward accreditation. This process includes performing many of the same assessments that is needed for the REACH grant. As a result, Eileen and her department have been working very closely with REACH staff as they move toward implementing the REACH grant. Eileen and her staff implemented the Local Public Health Status Assessment in the fall of 2011. Through this assessment, we were able to use the information to identify best practices, improve coordination, and lobby for policy changes or an increased emphasis on low-scoring areas. Some of the findings of the assessment were:

Residents:

- Didn't realize their organization was part of the public health system
- Difficult to determine the role of the local health dept. from the system
- 16% of respondents didn't know there was a local public health dept.
- Policy is viewed from different lenses
- Didn't know about the 10 Essential Services

Strengths:

- Our emergency preparedness initiatives are in great shape
- Epi and Co Health Nursing have effective protocols
- There are strong connections and networks in the county (but need to make them more visible)

Recommendations:

- We need to include collaboration and how to break down silos in the Community Action Plan/CHIP
- There needs to be more public awareness (about public health services)
- There needs to be better communication and coordination (not competition) between public health partners
- Need more evaluation and publicize those we have
- Catalog community resources
- Survey "partners" to see if they consider themselves part of the system

Eileen also touched up on the work that her department was conducting in the Community Health Status assessment. She, Mara and Rayna have been working together along with several MCDPH epidemiologists. She reported that how the health indicators that were being researched were selected. She also reported that an Epidemiology Task Force was being formed to assist in providing feedback on the data being collected. She stated that the data collected is being reviewed by the Epidemiology Task Force and REACH Team to determine the five top health concerns identified by Our community partners (via surveys, focus groups and survey monkeys). Once the top five health concerns are identified, a 3-5 year strategic plan will be developed (with the help of our community partners). Eileen mentioned that MCDPH paid for an additional 6 focus groups (conducted by Pima Prevention Partnership) in the LGTB, Senior and Low Income communities. A meeting will be held in May to provide an overview of the data to our community partners. All of the data that will be collected will be made available to the community via MCPH and ADHS websites. Melanie noted stated that she knew of a person who could assist with formatting the data on the websites in a user

friendly manner.

Anna informed the Advisory Board Members that the tentative date for this meeting is May 31st.

Program Manager's Report

Anna reported that we had received approval from CDC to utilize funds from the REACH 2011 budget to hire a consultant/company to assist us in producing materials. This company would need to have experience in developing materials that were sensitive to our community partners.

ABT Associates, Inc. is currently reviewing REACH data in order to provide a national view of our data. St. Luke's Health Initiative provided the funding for ABT. We are expecting to receive a draft report within the next month.

Anna stated that a Community Action Planning Meeting will be held in June, 2012 with a potential date being June 15th. This will be a full day meeting where our REACH Advisory Board and Community Team along with community partners, ADHS staff and MCDPH staff will meet to review the findings of the assessments and identify key directions to address the five top health issues identified by our community partners. She asked that the Advisory Board Members make note in their schedules and try to attend this very important meeting.

Anna provided an overview of the REACH Budget. At the October, 2011 REACH Advisory meeting, several REACH Board members had requested that an overview of the budget be provided. We are on track with our budget expenses for the program. The project had some savings last year due to the hiring freeze. We requested a carry-over of funds from the Year 1 budget (\$158,000) to CDC in December. We are expecting to know by March if that request has been approved.

We continue to be on target with our budget. We received permission from CDC to carry forward unused funding from our 2011 grant. This could be used to contract with a multicultural media/design company and a training/facilitating company for the training we will be holding in August, 2012 for ADHS staff and community organizations/representatives.

New Business

Doug mentioned that he had several copies of a the publication "The State of Asian American and Pacific Islanders" available.

Adjournment

Dr. Valdez motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Melanie seconded the motion. The meeting was officially adjourned by Ms. Mahal at 12:00pm.

Next Board Meeting: The Community Improvement meeting will be held on May 31, 2012 in lieu of a Board Meeting, the Advisory Board members are encouraged to attend. We will be providing an overview of the data collected from the four MAPP Assessments.